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au-to-mat-ic (ô'tô-mat'ik)
adj.

- Acting or operating in a manner essentially independent of external influence or control: *an automatic light switch; a budget deficit that triggered automatic spending cuts.*
 - Self-regulating: *an automatic washing machine.*
 - Acting or done without volition or conscious control; involuntary: *automatic shrinking of the pupils of the eyes in strong light. See Synonyms at spontaneous.*
 - Acting or done as if by machine; mechanical: *an automatic reply to a familiar question.*
 - Capable of firing continuously until ammunition is exhausted or the trigger is released: *an automatic rifle.*
 - Semiautomatic: *an automatic pistol.*
- n.*
- An automatic machine or device.
 - An automatic firearm.
 - A semiautomatic firearm.
 - A transmission or a motor vehicle with an automatic gear-shifting mechanism.
 - Football See [audible](#).

Idiom:**on automatic**

Functioning by or as if by automatic machine or device.

[From Greek *automatos*: *auto-*, *auto-* + *-matos*, *willing*; see *men-*¹ in Indo-European roots.]**au-to-mat-i-cal-ly** adv.**au-to-mat-ic-i-ty** (-măt'is'itē) *n.*

Word History: The words *automatic pilot* or *automatic transmission* bring to mind mechanical devices that operate with minimal human intervention. Yet the word *automatic*, which goes back to the Greek word *automatos*, "acting of one's own will, self-acting, of itself," made up of two parts, *auto-*, "self," and *-matos*, "willing," is first recorded in English in 1748 with reference to motions of the body, such as the peristaltic action of the intestines: "The Motions are called automatic from their Resemblance to the Motions of Automata, or Machines, whose Principle of Motion is within themselves." Although the writer had machines in mind, *automatic* could be used of living things, a use we still have. The association of *automatic* chiefly with machinery may represent one instance of many in which we have come to see the world in mechanical terms.

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automatic**Adjective**

- (of a device or mechanism) able to activate or regulate itself
- (of a process) performed by automatic equipment
- done without conscious thought
- (of a firearm) utilizing some of the force of each explosion to reload and fire continuously
- occurring as a necessary consequence: *the certificate itself carries no automatic legal benefits*

Noun

- an automatic firearm
- a motor vehicle with automatic transmission [Greek *automatos* acting independently]

automatically adv

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Thesaurus Legend: §Synonyms §Related Words §Antonyms


Noun 1. **automatic** - light machine gun

§automatic rifle, machine rifle


§assault gun, assault rifle - any of the automatic rifles or



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semiautomatic rifles with large magazines designed for military use

automatic firearm, automatic gun, automatic weapon - a firearm that reloads itself and keeps firing until the trigger is released

Browning automatic rifle, BAR - a portable .30 caliber automatic rifle operated by gas pressure and fed by cartridges from a magazine; used by United States troops in World War I and in World War II and in the Korean War

machine gun - a rapidly firing automatic gun (often mounted)

2. **automatic** - a pistol that will keep firing until the ammunition is gone or the trigger is released

automatic pistol

automatic firearm, automatic gun, automatic weapon - a firearm that reloads itself and keeps firing until the trigger is released

handgun, pistol, shooting iron, side arm - a firearm that is held and fired with one hand



Adj. 1. **automatic** - operating with minimal human intervention; independent of external control; "automatic transmission"; "a budget deficit that caused automatic spending cuts"

mechanical - using (or as if using) mechanisms or tools or devices; "a mechanical process"; "his smile was very mechanical"; "a mechanical toy"

manual - requiring human effort; "a manual transmission"

2. **automatic** - resembling the unthinking functioning of a machine; "an automatic 'thank you'"; "machinelike efficiency"

automatonlike, machinelike, robotlike, robotic

mechanical - using (or as if using) mechanisms or tools or devices; "a mechanical process"; "his smile was very mechanical"; "a mechanical toy"

3. **automatic** - without volition or conscious control; "the automatic shrinking of the pupils of the eye in strong light"; "a reflex knee jerk"; "sneezing is reflexive"

reflex, reflexive

physiology - the branch of the biological sciences dealing with the functioning of organisms

involuntary - controlled by the autonomic nervous system; without conscious control; "involuntary muscles"; "gave an involuntary start"

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automatic

adjective 1. MECHANICAL, robot, automated, mechanized, push-button, self-regulating, self-propelling, self-activating, self-moving, self-acting << OPPOSITE done by hand

adjective 2. INVOLUNTARY, natural, unconscious, mechanical, spontaneous, reflex, instinctive, instinctual, unwilled << OPPOSITE conscious

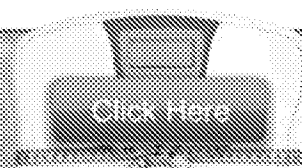
adjective 3. INEVITABLE, certain, necessary, assured, routine, unavoidable, inescapable

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Translations

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automatic

adj automatic [o.to'matik]

1 (of a machine etc) working by itself *an automatic washing-machine.*

2 (of an action) without thinking *an automatic response.*

n

a self-loading gun *He has two automatics and a rifle.*

adj automated [-meɪ-]

working by automation.

adv auto'matically

This machine works automatically. He answered automatically.

n auto'mation

(in factories etc) the use of machines, especially to work other machines *Automation has resulted in people losing their jobs.*

n automaton [o'tometən]

a human-shaped machine that can be operated to move by itself.

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